



HR1516

LRB096 24461 GRL 44209 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, William B. "Bill" Black is retiring in December of
3 2010 after serving the residents of East Central Illinois for
4 nearly 24 years in the Illinois House of Representatives; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Black was first elected to the
6 Illinois General Assembly to serve the 105th District in
7 November of 1986 after being appointed to fill a vacancy in
8 February of that year; in November of 2008, he was elected to
9 his 12th term in the 104th District; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Black is a native of Danville,
11 where his family has owned and operated a small business for
12 more than 60 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Black served his hometown as an
14 administrator at Danville Community College and as an organizer
15 of the Danville Area Economic Development Corporation; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Black has had a long and
17 distinguished career serving his local community; he served on
18 the Vermilion County Board as a member and chairman; he served
19 as President of the Danville Jaycees and Danville South Rotary;
20 he has also served on the Danville Area Convention and Visitors
21 Bureau, the Vermilion County Chapter of the American Red Cross,

1 and the St. Elizabeth Hospital Mental Health Advisory Board;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Black joined the late Senator
4 Harry "Babe" Woodyard in the General Assembly to create a
5 formidable team and a strong voice for central Illinois
6 communities; his accomplishments include a law that improved
7 before and after school daycare for Illinois families and a
8 measure that protects the habitats of Illinois wildlife; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Black was named Republican Floor
10 Leader and Assistant Republican Leader in 1991 and Deputy
11 Republican Leader in 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Black is recognized as one of the
13 most gifted orators in the General Assembly and is known for
14 stating his positions strongly and clearly, but often with a
15 touch of humor to lighten up a contentious debate; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Black is respected by colleagues
17 on both sides of the aisle as a statesman who puts the needs of
18 his district above all other concerns; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Black, a former educator, has
20 consistently fought to improve educational opportunities from
21 pre-school to college and beyond; he was the sponsor of

1 legislation to provide school districts more flexibility to
2 consolidate or to modify their school calendars and to
3 eliminate costly tuition waivers imposed on the University of
4 Illinois and other State universities; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Black has championed other issues
6 important to families in his district, including protecting the
7 funding for roads and other needed infrastructure
8 improvements, helping low income families and seniors keep warm
9 in the winter by removing the sales tax on natural gas,
10 creating jobs through the creation of Job Renewal Zones,
11 cracking down on drunk and distracted drivers that pose a
12 deadly hazard on our roads, and protecting the rights of
13 adoptive parents; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Black successfully worked to keep
15 our State parks and recreational areas open for the education
16 and enjoyment of our families and worked with colleagues across
17 the State and Chicago city leaders to stop the infamous phantom
18 Chicago parking tickets; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Black's good humor is infectious,
20 and House Republican members and staff can always count on
21 Representative Black to make them laugh on long session days by
22 ambushing them with squirt guns, silly string, and other toys,
23 or by relaying a funny story or joke; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Black has received many honors for
2 his service to his local communities, including several
3 Outstanding Legislator Awards from various Illinois
4 associations; he was also named one of the ten Outstanding
5 State Legislators in the country in 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Bill Black is married to the former
7 Sharon MacArthur; together, they have 2 grown children, Debra
8 and Doug, and 6 grandchildren; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate our friend and colleague, Representative William
12 B. "Bill" Black, on his retirement from the Illinois House of
13 Representatives and wish him the best in his future endeavors;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to State Representative William B. "Bill" Black as a
17 symbol of our respect and esteem.